

SMARTSET facilitates the introduction of cleaner fleets for last mile distribution in cities. By using modern low emission vehicles, local environment can be substantially improved in terms of greenhouse gas and particle emissions, road safety and congestion.

Cleaner vehicles in freight transport

SMARTSET partners have been testing various approaches to the introduction of cleaner fleets – electric cargo bikes used to bring home shoppers' trophies from a busy city centre; electric and methane-powered deliveries, from logistics centres and micro-terminals, to shops located in pedestrianised areas; consolidated deliveries via an electric truck to multiple locations across a large university campus; and an e-truck transporting heavy goods through a major European capital. All of these approaches have one thing in common: they are testing solutions that have a positive impact on health, congestion, safety, emissions and the general quality of life of Europeans.

Selecting cleaner vehicles

The SMARTSET project was unable to provide direct funding for the vehicles so, depending on local conditions, the project partners employed a number of different strategies to obtain their chosen vehicle(s) – ranging from private funds, to a mix of municipal, regional, national and European funding sources.

Research conducted in the project shows that, apart from the simple purchasing costs, the other most important factors in the selection of vehicles were the availability of vehicles, parts and servicing, and their technological maturity and functional specification, such as range, payload and monitoring capability. The environmental profile of a vehicle was paramount, which is linked to their privileged access to restricted city areas. Also – which may come as something of a surprise – it turned out that of high importance, and a key issue, was the ability to find qualified service staff for these technologically advanced vehicles.



Clean distribution in Padua, Italy

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Evaluating the vehicle tests

An important step for any trial is the assessment of the cleaner vehicle demonstrations. While this will be done towards the end of the project, partners have already agreed on assessment parameters, including the 'real-life' performance of the vehicles, in terms of range, reliability, emissions and total cost of ownership (as compared to the claims made in their advertised performance).

Other selected indicators include the compliance with policy goals and the financial sustainability of a tested solution. The full list of these parameters is available as a public deliverable, on the project's website at <http://smartset-project.eu/downloads>

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